

Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

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TAGS: PFOR PINT PGOV EAID MASS CB US

SUBJECT: WHAT ADVICE DO WE GIVE KHMERS IF CONGRESS REFUSES
TO VOTE SUPPLEMENTAL AID FOR CAMBODIA?

1. THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, SAUKHAM KHOY, CORNERED ME AT
THE SOUTH KOREAN DCM'S FAREWELL RECEPTION TODAY, MARCH 14.
HE ASKED ME WHETHER CONGRESS WOULD VOTE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR
CAMBODIA. I SAID I DID NOT KNOW BUT THAT I REMAINED HOPEFUL
WAYS WOULD BE FOUND FOR CONGRESS TO MAKE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
AVAILABLE TO CAMBODIA. (I WAS THINKING IN TERMS OF ADDITIONAL
DOD DRAW-DOWN AUTHORITY AND LIFTING OF CEILING.)

SAUKHAM KHOY THEN ASKED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF CONGRESS
REFUSED TO MAKE THESE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE. I
REPLIED THAT I THOUGHT THAT WITHOUT THESE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE KHMERS TO GET THROUGH TO THE
END OF THE DRY SEASON IF FIGHTING CONTINUED AT THE PRESENT
LEVEL. SAUKHAM KHOY THEN LOOKED ME STRAIGHT IN THE FACE
AND SAID, "WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US KHMERS? WHAT DO
YOUR RECOMMEND WE DO?"

3. I TOLD HIM THAT AS THE NUMBER TWO MAN IN THE KHMER
REPUBLIC I REALIZED THAT HE WAS VERY MUCH CONCERNED
ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY. I SUGGESTED WE TALK
ABOUT IT AT SOME OTHER PLACE THAN AT A SOCIAL RECEPTION.

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IN THE MEANTIME I SAID THAT THE KHMERS SHOULD NOT CON-

CLUE PREMATURELY THAT AMERICAN CONGRESS WILL NOT
MAKE ADDITIONAL FUNDS AVAILABLE. I SAID WE WOULD BE IN
A MUCH BETTER POSITION TO KNOW WHERE WE STAND NEXT WEEK.

4. SAUKHAM KHOY SAID IT WAS MOST DISCOURAGING FOR THE
KHMERS TO SEE THEIR FOREIGN FRIENDS ALL
DEPARTING SO HASTILY. HE CITED THE FORTHCOMING DE-
PARTURE OF THE AUSTRALIANS, THE DEPARTURE OF THE ISRAELIS,
THE LARGE-SCALE VIETNAMESE EVACUATION, AND NOW THE
FRENCH PLANES WHICH ARE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE THIS WEEK-
END TO EVACUATE MEMBERS OF THE FRENCH COMMUNITY. HE
SAID THAT "THE KHMERS HAD ALWAYS PUT THEIR TRUST IN
THE AMERICANS." QUITE FRANKLY, HE SAID, IF THE KHMERS
DO NOT GET THE NECESSARY FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO HOLD
OFF THE COMMUNISTS, HE DOESNOT KNOW WHAT THE KHMERS
SHOULD DO. SINCE I COULD NOT ANSWER HIS QUESTIONS I
SIDE-STEPPED HIS QUERY AND TOLD HIM THAT I SENT TWO
LARGE BOXES OF MEDICINES TO HIS WIFE FOR DISTRIBUTION
BY THE CAMBODIAN LADIES IN THE KHMER HOSPITALS. I
AGREED TO MEET WITH HIM NEXT WEEK.

5. COMMENT: I WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF I COULD GET
DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON HOW I SHOULD ANSWER DIRECT
QUESTIONS BY WELL-MEANING KHMERS AS TO WHAT THEY SHOULD
DO IF THE AMERICAN CONGRESS REFUSES SUPPLEMENTAL RE-
SOURCES TO CAMBODIA.

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